

SOUTH CAROLINA.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

CITIZENS OF ORANGEBURG, S. C.

AGAINST ANY INCREASE OF

DUTIES ON WOOLLEN GOODS

OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURE.

DECEMBER 24, 1827.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures.

WASHINGTON:

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1827.

PUBLIC MEETING AT ORANGEBURG, S. C.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Orangeburg and its vicinity, this day, Monday, the 6th August, 1827, General William Rowe was called to the Chair, and Sanders Glover, Esq. appointed Secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by the Chairman, viz : an expression of opinion on the proposed tariff on woollens.

On motion of John M. Felder, Esq. the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw a memorial expressing the sense of the citizens of this district, respecting the proposed tariff on woollens, and report said memorial to an adjourned meeting of the citizens on the first Monday in September next ; and that said committee do take such steps as will ensure a general meeting on that day.

S. GLOVER,	}	Committee.
JOHN M. FELDER,		
T. W. GLOVER,		
E. J. FELDER,		
JOS. POU,		
DONALD ROWE,		
WM. MURROWE.		

Adjourned to the first Monday in September next.

S. GLOVER, *Secretary*.

August 6, 1827.

At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of Orangeburg District, agreeably to notice given on the sixth August last, to be held at the Courthouse, to receive from their committee a memorial to Congress against the proposed tariff on woollens, T. W. Glover, Esq. presented the memorial to the meeting, and made a number of very learned and judicious remarks against the tariff, and explanatory of the memorial which was submitted and accepted, *nem. contra*. Jos. Pou, Esq. submitted the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, viz :

1. *Resolved*, That we co-operate with our fellow-citizens throughout the State in any measure deemed proper to prevent the passage of said bill.

2. *Resolved*, That we co-operate with our fellow citizens in defeating the objects of the bill, should it be passed.

3. *Resolved*, That our Member to Congress and each Senator from this State be furnished with a copy of our proceedings.

4. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Charleston Mercury and Columbia Telescope.

EDM. J. FELDER,

Secretary P. T.

September 3, 1827.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

Your memorialists, citizens of Orangeburg District, in the State of South Carolina, believing that the proposed woollens bill will, if passed into a law, not only violate the Constitution, but, in its operation, be highly oppressive, and may, in its consequences, endanger the harmony of the Union, respectfully submit the reasons of their objections to the said bill.

The power to lay and collect duties and imposts was vested in Congress, your memorialists apprehend, to raise a revenue to meet, in part, the expenses incident to the wholesome administration of the Government, and thereby avoid modes of taxation less burdensome and obnoxious ; and that, in the Constitutional exercise of this power, no laws can be enacted expressively prohibitory in their character. The operation of all such laws will be partial and oppressive ; and, by encouraging monopoly, give an undue preference to one section of the Union.

All our commercial regulations, the general welfare and permanent harmony of our Confederacy, should be consulted. A power to lay and collect prohibitory duties *ad libitum* on all articles of import, will enable Congress, under the patriotic pretext of encouraging national industry, not only to exercise a control over, and give a direction to, our capital, but to the very occupations and pursuits of life ; a power which would paralyze individual enterprise, prevent a free and full development of the intellectual and physical resources of the country, and introduce, in the place of equal laws, a system of favoritism and oppression.

The tariff of 1824 has already reduced the great agricultural interest of the country, in some measure tributary, by excluding it from the advantages of a cheaper market ; and the proposed duty on woollens, your memorialists fear, is but an insidious revision, by detail, of said tariff ; which, if extended to every other article, must diminish the most profitable branch of the revenue, and completely subject the consumer to all the exactions of legalized monopolists.

A tax on foreign commerce is felt less rigorously by the consumer, and is admitted to be most compatible with the genius and policy of free States ; but, where such a tax is avowedly imposed to force into existence new employments by excluding all competition, the consumer will be burdened with a direct tax by Government, to meet a deficit of revenue, and doubly burdened by his fellow citizens with the payment of a high premium on the necessities of life, to support manufactories, which should follow the progress, and share the protection, of all other occupations.

A diversified and successful employment of the industry and capital of our fellow citizens in the arts and sciences, your memorialists regard as the foundation of national wealth and independence ; and, when spontaneously flourishing, and enjoying together the protection of equal laws, we will always extend a fostering support to their advancement and prosperity ; but your memorialists do protest against that policy which would, contrary to the true spirit of our free institutions, and the natural progress of improvement, promote one employment by laying a tribute and imposing fetters on all others. The patriot must look forward with fearful apprehensions to the jealous feelings which would be excited, and the dangerous consequences which may result, from the adoption of a system so unequal and harassing in its operations. A choice between the surrender of their Constitutional rights and the dismemberment of the Union, your memorialists sincerely hope, will never be forced on the American People. Your memorialists do, with much confidence and hope of redress, submit to the wisdom and justice of Congress their grievances under the present tariff, and pray that they may not be required to make still greater sacrifices by an increase of duties on wool, or any other articles.

WM. ROWE,

Chairman.

EDM. J. FELDER,

Secretary P. T.

